



Since 1985

LESC

Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)
Timothy Danahey, National President
Web Site: www.fleoa.org

International Brotherhood of Police Officers (IBPO)
Jerry Flynn, Executive Director
Web Site: www.ibpo.org

Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
Thomas Frazier, Executive Director
Web Site: www.mccassociates.org

Major County Sheriffs Association (MCSA)
Kevin Beary, President
Web Site: www.mccassociates.org

National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
Thomas J. Scott, National President
Web Site: www.napo.org

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
Jimmy Wilson, National President
Web Site: www.nobleatl.org

National Troopers Coalition (NTC)
Scott L. Reinacher, Chairman
Web Site: www.ntctroopers.com

Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
Chuck Wexler, Executive Director
Web Site: www.policeforum.org

Police Foundation (PF)
Hubert Williams, President
Web Site: www.policefoundation.org

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

"Representing Policing in America"

December 28, 2004

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-232: The Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

On behalf of the Law Enforcement Steering Committee (LESC), I would like to express our strong support for a permanent House Committee on Homeland Security, with full authority and increased jurisdiction over homeland security matters. We applaud your decision to create the House Select Committee on Homeland Security in the 108th Congress. We further believe it is time to take this vital committee to the next level, providing it authority and structure it requires.

We understand the concerns that a change of this nature would impact several other standing committees. However, the readiness of our nation's first responders relies greatly on the ability of Congress to provide solid legislation and proper oversight to enforce public policy. We hope you will guide and facilitate the consolidation of oversight and jurisdictional claims from other committees. Currently, these often create legislative impediments resulting in multiple mark-up sessions and fractured efforts to generate desperately needed legislation. The Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act succumbed to this fate during the last session of Congress.

The 9/11 Commission Report recommends the restructuring of intelligence and homeland security oversight by the Congress in order to effectively adjust to a post-9/11 world; a new reality that has forever changed the needs and responsibilities of America's first responders. We believe that it is imperative that the appropriate channels be put in place at the federal, state and local levels to assist them with their efforts. There must be one committee that is charged with these responsibilities including, but not limited to, providing protective measures for critical infrastructure, information sharing among the states and local communities, and proper funding for training and equipment.

We strongly believe that a permanent House Homeland Security Committee with the proper jurisdiction is the only way to achieve this goal. We hope that you will ensure the creation of a strong and viable committee. We thank you for your consideration and your continued support to America's law enforcement and our nation's first responders.

Sincerely,

Steve Lenkart
Chairman, Law Enforcement Steering Committee
Legislative Director, International Brotherhood of Police Officers

CC: Hon. Christopher Cox, Chairman, Select Committee on Homeland Security
Hon. David Dreier, Chairman, House Rules Committee

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